

according to Aleksei Simonov, President of the Russian "Glasnost Defense Foundation," a nongovernmental human rights organization;

Whereas such surveillance under SORM-2 would allow the Russian Federal Security Service access to passwords, financial transactions, and confidential company information, among other transmissions;

Whereas it is reported that over one hundred Russian journalists have been killed over the past decade, with few if any of the government investigations into those murders resulting in arrests, prosecutions, or convictions;

Whereas numerous observers of Russian politics have noted the blatant misuse of the leading Russian television channels, controlled by the Russian Government, to undermine popular support for political rivals of those supporting the government in the run-up to parliamentary elections held in December 1999;

Whereas it has been reported that Russian television stations controlled by the Russian Government were used to disparage opponents of Vladimir Putin during the campaign for the presidency in the beginning of this year, and whereas it has been reported that political advertisements by those candidates were routinely relegated by those stations to slots outside of prime time coverage;

Whereas manipulation of the media by the Russian Government appeared intent on portraying the Russian military attack on the separatist Republic of Chechnya to the maximum political advantage of the Russian Government;

Whereas in December 1999 two correspondents for "Reuters News Agency" and the "Associated Press" were reportedly accused of being foreign spies after reporting high Russian casualty figures in the war in Chechnya;

Whereas the arrest in January 2000, subsequent treatment by the Russian military, and prosecution by the Russian Government of Andrei Babitsky, a correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty covering the war in Chechnya, have constituted a violation of commitments made by the Russian Government to foster freedom of speech and of the press, and have reportedly constituted a violation of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation;

Whereas in January 2000 Aleksandr Khinshtein, a reporter for the newspaper "Moskovsky Komosomlets", was ordered by the Russian Federal Security Service to enter a clinic over 100 miles from his home for a psychiatric examination after he accused top Russian officials of illegal activities, and such detainment in psychiatric wards was previously employed by the former Soviet regime to stifle dissent;

Whereas the Russian newspaper "Novaya Gazeta" was officially warned by the Russian Ministry of the Press for its printing of an interview with Aslan Maskhadov, the elected President of the Republic of Chechnya; an entire issue of "Novaya Gazeta", including several articles alleging massive campaign finance violations by the presidential campaign of Vladimir Putin, was lost to unidentified computer "hackers"; and a journalist for "Novaya Gazeta" was savagely beaten in May of this year;

Whereas President Thomas Dine of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on March 14th, 2000, condemned the Russian Government's expanding efforts to intimidate the mass media, stating that those actions threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law in Russia;

Whereas "NTV", the only national independent television station, which reaches half of Russia and is credited with professional and balanced news programs, has fre-

quently broadcast news stories critical of Russian Government policies;

Whereas on May 11, 2000, masked officers of the Russian Federal Security Service carrying assault weapons raided the offices of "Media-Most", the corporate owner of NTV and other independent media;

Whereas the May 11th raid on Media-Most represented a failure of recourse to normal legal mechanisms and conveyed the appearance of a politically-motivated attack on Russian independent media;

Whereas the raid on Media-Most was carried out under the authority of President Putin and Russian Government ministers who have not criticized or repudiated that action;

Whereas on June 12, 2000, Vladimir Gusinsky, owner of NTV and other leading independent media was suddenly arrested;

Whereas President Putin claimed not to have known of the planned arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

Whereas the continued functioning of an independent media is a vital attribute of Russian democracy and an important obstacle to the return of authoritarian or totalitarian dictatorship in Russia; and

Whereas a free news media can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) expresses its continuing, strong support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses its strong concern over the failure of the government of the Russian Federation to privatize major segments of the Russian media, thus retaining the ability of Russian officials to manipulate the media for political or corrupt ends;

(3) expresses its strong concern over the pattern of Russian officials' surveillance and physical, economic, legal, and political intimidation of Russian citizens and of the Russian media that has now become apparent in Russia;

(4) expresses its strong concern over the pattern of manipulation of the Russian media by Russian Government officials for political and possibly corrupt purposes that has now become apparent;

(5) expresses profound regret and dismay at the detention and continued prosecution of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Andrei Babitsky and condemns those breaches of Russian legal procedure and of Russian Government commitments to the rights of Russian citizens that have reportedly occurred in his detention and prosecution;

(6) expresses strong concern over the breaches of Russian legal procedure that have reportedly occurred in the course of the May 11th raid by the Russian Federal Security Service on Media-Most and the June 12th arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

(7) calls on the President of the United States to express to the President of the Russian Federation his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation and to emphasize the concern of the United States that official pressures against the independent media and the political manipulation of the state-owned media in Russia are incompatible with democratic norms; and

## SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with the request that it be forwarded to the President of the Russian Federation.

## CITIZENS DESERVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 527 CAMPAIGN ATTACK ADS

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to join many of my Democratic colleagues in signing a discharge petition to bring legislation to the floor of the House of Representatives to require full disclosure of so-called 527 ads—the political attack ads that are becoming a disturbing way of life in politics today. These ads are the latest scheme to get around campaign finance laws. The undermine our democracy.

I speak from experience about 527's. As a freshman Member of Congress, I have had these anonymous attack ads running in my central New Jersey district—both against me and against the loser of the primary election in my district.

527 ads are the political equivalent of a drive-by shooting. They are deceptive—they are anonymous—and they keep citizens in the dark about who is trying to influence their elections.

Citizens deserve the right to know who is contributing money to elections. Full disclosure allows citizens to make more informed judgments about issues and elections.

I urge my colleagues to join me in signing the discharge petition.

## TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY MAYOR MATHEW WITECKI FROM LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention to the life of a man I am proud to call my friend, Mathew Witecki of Little Falls, New Jersey, who passed from this Earth on Sunday, May 29, 2000. It is only fitting that Mayor Witecki be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others. Due to his leadership and dedicated service, I am honored to submit these words to be immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Fifteen years ago, Mathew Witecki made his political debut by wearing a gas mask and pushing a baby carriage during a protest to stop the construction of a landfill on part of the Montclair State University Campus. Mathew, the former mayor and deputy mayor of Little Falls, joined the picket line and helped fight plans to dump garbage from New York on a site near the border of Montclair and the township where he lived for 43 years.

Since his political debut, Mayor Witecki, 76, a retired engineer, served on the Little Falls Township Council and was an active member of numerous community organizations until he died on this past Sunday. Mathew was the son of Polish immigrants who grew up during the depression. He is remembered as a man who never wasted time or resources. Mathew was a graduate of Newark College of Engineering and retired in 1986 as a senior engineer for Bendix Corp. after 45 years of service. He then worked as a consultant for Allied